ADA Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes December 7, 2011

The Jackson ADA Advisory Council meeting was held in the Hood Bldg. Members attending this meeting were: Ms. Lee Cole (Chairperson), Dr. Scott Crawford, Ms. Karen Robinson, Ms. Jan Hawthorne, and Mr. Namon Hulitt (AARP Chapter 850). Other attendees were: Ms. Patrina Pendarvis, Mr. Jason Bunch, Ms. Linda Myers (Brain Injury Association), Mr. Antonio Wright (CEO of Metro Area Community Empowerment-MACE), Ms. Aretha Smith and Ms. Evelyn Pittman (City of Jackson/Transit Services Division).

- I. Ms. Lee Cole called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.
- II. Members and guests introduced themselves.
- III. It was determined that there was not a quorum for voting purposes, but that the meeting would proceed.
- IV. Ms. Evelyn Pittman read the minutes. There were several corrections made to the minutes. Ms. Lee Cole noted there was not enough members present to approve the Minutes. This would be done at the next meeting.

Old Business

V. Ms. Cole informed the council of the following items that Rev. Gleese wanted her to share at today's meeting due to his absence: (A) Mr. Thelman Boyd will not be attending the meeting today to give an update on the "Code Red" status. Mr. Boyd will be placed on the agenda for the next month's meeting; (B) Rev. Sam Gleese is hoping that by January 2012 to hear from the VA (Veterans Administration), and Department of Deaf and Hard of Hearing, to have someone from these organizations to serve on this Council; and (C) Database Project is still pending, awaiting a final report from the American Red Cross.

- VI. Dr. Crawford provided an update on the City's Transition Plan: (A) An increase in the yearly budget for sidewalks and curb cuts from \$50,000 to \$200,000; (B) Some funds are set aside to upgrade bus stops, on JATRAN's major routes; (C) The Transition Plan speaks of utilizing the new Public Rights-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines released in July 2011. Yet, later in the document, it repeatedly refers back to language of replacing and upgrading curb ramps, not entire sidewalks. Dr. Crawford made a written recommendation to change the word curb ramps in most places within the Transition Plan, to Public Rights-of-Way, pedestrian pathway, or sidewalks.
- VII. Dr. Crawford reviewed five (5) or more of the self-evaluation surveys submitted in the Transition Plan from department heads, or a designated staff person within each department who submitted lengthy surveys in reference to program accessibility. There were many instances in which program directors failed to answer questions, even when "Don't Know" and "N/A" were two of the possible responses. There were many instances in which the survey calls for accessible forms, or policies and procedures to be attached. They were not.
- VIII. Finally, Dr. Scott Crawford expressed concern that the City's Transition Plan lacks specific documentation that addresses ADA accessibility issues in Programs and Services.
- IX. Ms. Lee Cole shared with the council that there will be a public hearing about the Transition Plan before December 31, 2011. When Rev. Gleese receives a date, time, and place of the public hearing, the council will be notified. Ms. Cole stated that members of the council's main responsibility will be to make sure that every disability organization/agency is aware of the public hearing.

New Business

X. Dr. Crawford and Dr. Christy Dunaway provided consultation for two (2) streets in Jackson. The following recommendations were made for West Street (behind Baptist Hospital): widen sidewalks to 4' feet to meet ADA guidelines, and narrow the traffic lane; and Spangler Road (adjacent to High Street) has such steep lopes, that it's possible to add sidewalks on Reno Street joining Spangler and High Street. These recommendations can possibly save the City of Jackson a lot of money. Dr. Crawford was pleased

that the City consulted with members of the disability community <u>before</u> work was done.

Announcements

- XI. JATRAN Handilift Advisory Committee's next meeting will be January 17, 2012.
- XII. Dr. Scott Crawford's artwork *LEGO Jackson* at MS Art Center, 201 East Pascagoula Street, Jackson, MS, will be on display from December to January.
- XIII. JATRAN's Handilift Users Guide is available in Braille.
- XIV. Mr. Antonio Wright, author of "*From A Label to A Brand*" book signing will be on January 12, 2012 at Jackson State University.

The meeting adjourned at 2:17 p.m. The next ADA Advisory Meeting will be held on January 4, 2012, at 1pm, Hood Bldg. These Minutes were transcribed by Mrs. Jackie Washington.

These Minutes were approved at the March 7, 2012 meeting.